

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated August 19, 2004 (Paper No. 20). Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22 and 26 to 36 are in the application. Claims 1, 8, 16, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 37 to 40 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. The Office Action asserts constructive election of an originally presented invention that is distinct from these claims. Without conceding the correctness of the Office Action, Claims 37 to 40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22, and 26 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,271,805 (Yonezawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,048 (Okazaki) and U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yamaashi). Claims 31, 33, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okazaki in view of Yamaashi. Claims 32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Okazaki and Yamaashi and further in view of Yonezawa. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to the reception and display of frame images from at least one communication terminal. One feature of the present invention lies in the notification of a state of frame rate of received frame images. Image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the frame images received from communication terminal is displayed in a predetermined area at a time when the received frame images are displayed. That state of frame rate is notified to a user by changing the

image information. Specifically, a first image information is displayed when the at least one of the received frame images is displayed on a predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is updated, a second image information is displayed in a period when at least one of the received frame images is displayed on the predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is not updated, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when frame images are not displayed. In one representative embodiment of the invention, the first and second image information may be, for example, icons, as shown in Figure 15, and the icons may be displayed in predetermined areas 66h - 66m as shown in Figure 6. In this way, a user can quickly assess whether the displayed images are update images or not.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites a communication apparatus comprising a reception unit for receiving frame images generated from a plurality of communication terminals, an output unit for outputting the frame images received by the reception unit in order to display the frame images on a display unit as multiple image displays, and a notification unit for acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate of the frame images received by the reception unit while the reception unit is receiving the frame images. The notification unit causes the display unit to display an image information of the state of frame rate corresponding to each of the image displays on a predetermined area. The image information is displayed together with the received frame images when the received frame images are displayed. The notification unit also notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information on the basis of a state of the reception of the reception unit. A first image information is displayed when the at least one of the received frame images is displayed on a predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is updated, a second image information is displayed in a

period when at least one of the received frame images is displayed on the predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is not updated, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when frame images are not displayed.

Independent Claims 8, 22, and 35 are method claims; Independent Claims 15 and 31 are apparatus claims; Independent Claims 29, 30, and 36 are storage medium claims. These independent claims correspond generally to independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of notifying of the state of frame rate by changing an image information on the basis of a state of the reception, wherein a first image information is displayed when the at least one of the received frame images is displayed on a predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is updated, a second image information is displayed in a period when at least one of the received frame images is displayed on the predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is not updated, and neither the first or the second image information are displayed when the received images are not displayed.

As conceded by the Office Action, Yonezawa fails to disclose acquiring and notifying of a state of frame rate of the received images, wherein the notification unit notifies of the state of frame rate by changing the image information so that a first image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are changed, a second image information is displayed when the received images are displayed and the displayed images are not changed, and neither the first or the second images information are displayed when the received images are not displayed. The Office

Action, however, contends that Okazaki and Yamaashi make up for Yonezawa's deficiencies.

Okazaki is seen to teach a user interface module for displaying a list of the present requested frame rate and the real frame rate of a transmission module of the motion image and reception rates of motion pictures and audio sounds of a plurality of reception modules corresponding to the transmission module to display 203. (Okazaki, col. 7, lines 3-11, Figs. 1 and 12). However, Okazaki is not seen to teach that the display of requested frame rate and real frame rate is achieved by displaying a first image information when at least one of the received frame images is displayed on a predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is updated, a second image information in a period when at least one of the received frame images is displayed on the predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is not updated, and neither the first or the second image information when the received images are not displayed. On the contrary, Okazaki does not disclose any method for achieving the display of real frame rate.

Yamaashi is seen to teach a video data display controlling method for changing display specifications or attributes of an image so as to display an image having a high user interest degree with a high display quality and to display an image having a low user interest degree with a low display quality. (see Abstract, column 7 lines 24-38). One of the display specifications that is changed in accordance with a user interest degree is the frame rate. Yamaashi is not seen to disclose that the display of frame rate is achieved by displaying a first image information when at least one of the received frame images is displayed on a predetermined region and a next frame image on the predetermined region is updated, a second image information in a period when at least one of the received frame images is displayed on the predetermined region and a next frame image on the

predetermined region is not updated, and neither the first or the second image information when the received images are not displayed. On the contrary, the frame rate disclosed in Yamaashi corresponds to a user selection of image quality, and is not in any way seen to relate to received frame images. As a result, any change in Yamaashi's frame rate results solely from a change in user selection of image quality priority, not from a change in received image frames. Therefore, the Yamaashi's frame rate is seen to be merely a user preference setting unrelated to received frame images.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Kmett', written over a horizontal line.

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